MR. NICHOLS

M. A. JONES

EDWIN BARI NEWSOM INFORMATION CONCERNING

PURPOSE:

In your memorandum to Mr. Tolson dated September 26, 1955, reviewing your conversation with Jack Bugas of the Ford Motor Company concerning developments in the Fund for the Republic, Bugas mentioned the name of Earl Newsom, a public relations consultant. While talking with George Sokolsky on other matters, you asked if he had ever had much contact with Newsom. Sokolsky stated that Newsom was very close to Elmo Rope, who is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Fund for the Republic, and that Newsom and Roper had been advising businessmen to liberalize themselves to meet new conditions. Newsom represents, among others, the American Locomotive Company, the Ford Foundation, and the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

Sokolsky further stated he has always been suspect of Newsom because during the days of OPA, Newsom, on his own volition, called a meeting of public relations men and urged them to take a stand for OPA against their bosses. Sokolsky further stated that Newsom might be the individual who has been responsible for some of the left-wing developments in big business.

In accordance with your request, there is set forth below a summary of information in Bufiles concerning Newsom:

EDWIN EARL NEWSOM

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The 1954-1955 edition of "Who's Who In America" states that Edwin Earl Newsom was born December 13, 1897, at Wellman, Iowa, the son of John Edward and Emma Ellen (Day) Newsom. He received an A.B. degree from Oberlin College, 1921; L.H.D. degree, Boston University, 1948. He was married June 14, 1923, to Lois Ruth Rinehart, and is the father of itwa children. Newsom has been employed as a teacher, Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, Ohio; McBurney School for Boys, New York City; Memorial High School, Pelham, New York, 1921-25. He served Tolson a staff member, Literary Digest, New York City, 1925-27; executive Board Garetary, Oil Heating Institute, 1927-29; vice president, John Day Nichtlishing Company, 1929-31; director, Public Relations and Sales, Belmontate Company, Incorporated, 1931-33; partner, Norman Bel Geddes Mohrand Company, 1933-35; senior partner, Earl Newsom and Company, public Parsons

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DETROIT FILE NO. 123-813

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EDWIN EARL NEWSOM			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DE- PARTMENT, Public Law 402, 80th Congress (VOICE OF AMERICA)					
	with regard to character, associates and loy- alty, and considers Applicant a good security risk.							
- RUC -								
REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Washington Field, March 14, 1951.								
DETAILS:								
HENRY FORD II, President Ford Motor Company, 3000 Schaefer Road, Dearborn, Michigan, advised he has known the Applicant socially and in a business way for six years and during that period he has found the Applicant to be "tops" with regard to character, associations and loyalty. Mr. FORD stated he considered the Applicant to be definitely a good security risk.								
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TO:

Mr. Tolson

FROM:

L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT:

For record purposes, Jack Bugas, of the Ford Motor Company, called endeavoring to reach me on 9/7/55, while I was out of town. I talked to Bugas on 9/8/55. Bugas stated that he wanted to bring me up to date with reference to the developments in the Fund for the Republic. He stated that young Henry Ford was now very much exercised and was carrying on a campaign with the hope of unseating the two top individuals, namely, Paul Hoffman and Robert M. Hutchins. I asked him about W. H. Ferry. Bugas stated that obviously Ferry would go too.

Bugas kept telling me that Henry Ford was very much exercised and he had gotten some of the Trustees exercised. I asked him who they were. He stated that one of the individuals who was very much disturbed was Bethuel M. Webster. I told Bugas that this was rather interesting, particularly in light of the fact that at one time Webster had represented William Remington. Bugas stated that this was news to him. Bugas then informed me that it would be most helpful if he could have a memorandum for his own confidential guidance pointing out the left-wing activities of the Fund for the Repbublic.

I told Bugas that this would be rather difficult and I did not see how we could do anything but if we could I would get in touch with him. Bugas said nothing whatsoever about the protest of the American Legion at the time which made me very suspicious. In the course of the conversation, Bugas told me that Earl Newsome, a public relations consultant, had been spending considerable time in Detroit; that Newsome, himself, was upset and that Bugas had talked to Newsome about the Fund for the Republic project of investigating the FBI and the American Legion. Newsome expressed the view that he thought any such project as that of investigating the FBI by the Fund for the Republic was beyond the realm of possibility. Bugas stated that he was not unmindful of the fact that W. H. Ferry had worked for Newsome at one time and that there might be a close relationship between the two.

oc - Mr. Boardman Mr. Belmont

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Memorandum for Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols

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In connection with Earl Newsome, while talking to George Sokolsky on other matters, I asked him if he had ever had much contact with Newsome. George stated that Newsome was very close to Elmore Roper who is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Fund for the Republic; that he and Roper had been advising businessmen to liberalize themselves to meet new conditions; that among others, Newsome represents the American Locomotive Company, the Ford Foundation, and the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

George further stated that he has always been suspect of Newsome because during the days of OPA, on his own volition, Newson e called a meeting of public relations men and urged them to tak a stand for OPA against their bosses. Subsequently, George told me that while W. H. Ferry was with the War Production Board, he got into some sort of difficulities in a controversy over the handling of scrap iron and steel. Ferry was put into the War Production Board by Sidney Hillman and George felt that it might be very productive to get a discreet line on the background of Earl Newsome and to see if there was any available information on the alleged difficulities Ferry had with the War Production Board. George further stated that Newsome might be the individual who has been responsible for some of the left-wing developments in big business.

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United States Department of Instice Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington 25, D. C.

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO FILE NO. 123-8983

Date: March 14, 1951

AIR MAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY

To:

SAC, Washington Field

From:

J. Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: EDWIN EARL NEWSOM

SPECIAL INQUIRY-(STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress

(VOICE OF AMERÍCA)

You are requested to conduct an investigation of the above named individual. The instructions contained in Section 103, Volume 3 of the Manual of Instructions and Chapter 78, Part 3 of the FBI Handbook should be observed in connection with this investigation. This case is to be assigned immediately and reports of the complete investigation must be submitted Air Mail, Special Delivery, where proper, by March 28, 1951

Address: 45 Heywood Road, Pelham Manor 65, New York

Birth date: December 13, 1897

Birthplace: Wellman, Iowa

ENCLOSURES

CC:

BALTIMORE-(SD) (ENC)
BOSTON-(AMSD) (ENC)
CLEVELAND-(AMSD) (ENC)
DETROIT-(AMSD) (ENC)
NEW YORK-(SD) (ENC)
OMAHA-(AMSD) (ENC)

Form 79 sent CSC

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PERSONAL AND DEPARTMENT

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date:

10 miles

To:

Mr. Donald L. Nicholson

Chief

Division of Security Department of State

515 Twenty-second Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

From:

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject:

There are transmitted herewith reports covering the investigation conducted by this Bureau concerning the above-named person:

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Enclosure





Form No. 1 This case originated at	· . · .		elle No	
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EDWIN EARL NEWSOM	1 1 x		Public Law 402, (VOICE OF AMERI	80th Congress
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NY 123-6100

in all respects and recommended him for a position of trust on the basis of character, associations, reputation, and loyalty.

No record of the Literary Digest Magazine could be located in New York City. It has been out of business since 1933.

Mrs. G. R. BERGER, Oil Heating Institute of America, Inc., 6 East 39th Street, New York City, advised that they had no employment records as old as 1928 and that all the personnel were in convention in Chicago but that no one presently with the firm had been there in 1928.

ALBERT H. WALSH, owner of John Day Publishing Company, 62 West 45th Street, verified the applicant's employment as Vice President of that firm from 1929 to 1931. He said his brother, who had founded the publishing company had known the applicant when he was a school teacher in Pelham where his brother's children had gone to school. He and his son, RICHARD WALSH, JR., recalled that he had been an officer in the Oil Heating Institute prior to coming into the John Day Company. They both recommended him as a person of excellent character, loyalty, and associations.

HERBERT JONCAS, Secretary Treasurer, Distributors Group, Inc., Investments, 63 Wall Street, New York City, recalled that NEWSOM had worked there as advertising manager from 1931 to 1933. He recommended him as a person of good character, loyalty, and associations. He said there was no one else in the firm who was there in 1933.

NORMAN BEL GEDDES advised that he had been in partnership with NEWSOM in the Norman Bel Geddes and Company, Industrial Design, 51 East 54th Street, New York City, from 1933 to 1935. He and JAMES BALDJIN, General Manager, recommended the applicant as a person of good character and loyalty.

RICHARD J. WALSH, 62 West 45th Street, advised that he had worked for the applicant in his present firm the Earl Newsom and Company, Public Relations, 597 Madison Avenue, New York City. He started when it was founded in 1935 after the applicant had left the Norman Bel Geddes Company. WALSH said NEWSOM is in partnership with FRED L. PALMER, W. H. TERRY, and CHARLES F. MOORE, JR.

NORMAN BEL GEDDES and HERBERT JONCAS, 63 Wall Street, verified the applicant's employment since 1935 as senior partner in the Earl Newsom Company. They have maintained business and social contact with him and recommend him without reservation.

NY 123-6100 References: FRANK W. ABRAMS, Chairman of the Board, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, said he has known the applicant since 1942 and has known of him through mutual friends for over twenty years and recommended him without question. HOULDER HUDGINS, President of Sloane-Blabon Corporation. 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, advised that he has known the applicant for several years and would recommend him as a person of good character, loyalty and associations. JOHN H. HINMAN, President of International Paper Company, 220 East 42nd Street, New York City, was reported to be on an extended vacation in Florida and Mexico and could not be contacted according to his secretary. Neighborhood: The following investigation at Pelham, New York was conducted by SA JAMES E. GORDON: Mrs. CLIFFORD T. WEIHMAN, LOI Monterey Avenue, Pelham, who has been acquainted with the applicant for several years and whose husband has known him for many years stated that he has lived in the neighborhood at least twenty-five years. He has an excellent reputation and is considered to be a person of good habits and general good character. He has been active in civic and social organizations. His loyalty is considered to be above reproach. Mr. EDGAR M. FITZSIMONS, 420 Monterey Avenue, Pelham, stated that he has known the applicant for about ten years. He considered him to be a person of excellent character and reputation. He has been active in some civic organizations and also a member of some local social organizations. His friends and associates appear to be people who are above reproach in all respects. Mr. FITZSTMONS considered the applicant to be a person of unquestionable loyalty. Military Service: The records of the Naval Record Management Center, Garden City, reflect that EDWIN EARL NEWSOM, Serial Number 184-93-78, entered the military service at Chicago, Illinois, on June 26, 1918, in the rank of Chief Quartermaster's Mate. The records show he was born December 13, 1897, Wellman, Iowa. At Key West, Florida, on December 6, 1918, he was released to inactive duty as Aviation Chief Radioman. On September 30, 1921, he was honorably discharged. His record was clear. - 3 -

NY 123-6100

Credit:

At the Westchester Credit Bureau, White Plains, New York, checked by SA JAMES E. GORDON, it was determined that the following information was on file, "derogatory credit information in the early thirties." There was no information available to amplify the remark and the files reflect no recent inquiries and no current rating.

The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, as checked by SA GORDON C. LUND, reflected a good credit record for the applicant.

Criminal:

The records of the Pelham Manor, New York Police Department were checked by SA JAMES E. GORDON, but there was no record for the applicant or his family.

No record was located in the files of the Nassau County Police Department, Mineola, New York, by SA WILLIAM A. JOHNSON, as to the applicant's son, JOHN R. NEWSOM, 37 Tower Lane, Levittown, New York.

SA AUGUST J. MICEK reported no record of the applicant or his family in the criminal files of the New York City Police Department.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

NY 123-6100

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

 $$\operatorname{SE}$$ EDWARD C. UTZ reported the information obtained from the Naval Records Management Center, New York City.

0-1 Office Memorandum . United states government

SAC, Boston (Your file) DATE: 4-/2-5/
Director, FBI TO

Edwin Carl Hewson FROM SUBJECT:

VOICE OF AMERICA The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not

received a report. You are instructed to immediately submit a report. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau.

Reason for delay

Advise Bureau re status of this case. Advise Bureau when report may be expected.

APR 1 4 1951 Surep immediately. FBI - BOSIU .

in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial

SERIALIZEDFILED

123-8983

U. S GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-62635-1

Form No. 1 THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT 123-2148 BUREAU REPORT MADE AT REPORT MADE BY DATE WHEN PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE BOSTON, MASS. 4-10-51 3-20,31-51 LOUIS H. BEIGBEDER TITLE CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUERY-STATE DEPARTMENT EDWIN EARL NEWSOM Public Law 402. 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Applicant awarded Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities from Boston University, March 14, 1948. No credit and criminal record on Applicant and brother, FRANCIS W. NEWSOM, 49 Worthington Street. Roxbury, Massachusetts. AST PIST AFE & REG. REC'D. 6 - R U C -Bureau letter to Washington Field Office dated REFERENCE: March 14, 1951. Miss HERMIONE STROMBELIS, Secretary to the President, DETAILS: Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, stated the records at this University show the Applicant was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities at the Founders Day Celebration on March 14, 1948,, by reason of outstanding leadership in public relations. CREDIT A check of the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater Boston, Incorporated, 11 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, failed to reveal any rating for the Applicant or his brother, FRANCIS W. NEWSOM, who resides at 49 Worthington Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts. APPROVED AND FORWARDED: DO-NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES IN CHARGE 123 COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau (123-8983)(AMSD) APR 14 195 1 Boston 18

BS 123-2148

CRIMINAL

A check of the records of the Massachusetts Board of Probation, Suffolk County Court House, Boston, Massachusetts, which is a central repository for all criminal arrest records in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, failed to reveal any information relating to the Applicant or his brother, FRANCIS W. NEWSOM, 49 Worthington Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

BS 123-2148

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Credit and Criminal checks were made by Special Employee FRANCIS L. MANNIX at Boston.

Office Memorandum • United States Government

то :	SAC	C, Boston (Your file) DATE: 4- 57 - 5-1
FROM :		rector, FBI
subject:/	/6	devin learl Newson
		devin lear Newson fla
	(4)	The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to immediately submit a report. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau.
		Report submitted 4/10/5-1
		Report will be submitted
		Reason for delay
		123-2148
	()	Advise Bureau re status of this case. SERIALIZED FILED SERIALIZED FILED
	()	Advise Bureau when report may be expected. APR 6-1951
	(4	Surep immediately.

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

Form No. 1

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Office Memorandum • United States Govern

Director, F B I TO

DATE:

FROM SAC , New York

: SUBJECT: Edwin Earl Newsom

Special dugury - State Dept. Public Face 402 - 80 Congress - VOA Character of Case;

Deadline Date: 3/28/5/

This case will be delinquent because:

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Report will reach the Bureau by: 4/28/5/

Bur.File # /23 - 8983

NY File # /23-6100

Form No. 1

report made at	DATE WHEN	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	PEPURT MADE BY
	MADE	3/20,21,27/51	Walfer J. Bures X
TLE	_1	* *	CHARACTER OF CASE
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CV. F. O. 123-706

that there was nothing derogatory on his school records.

DONALD M. LOVE, Oberlin College Secretary, stated that he had known the applicant personally and through his associates for the past 25 years. He advised that there was no question in his mind as to the applicant's patriotism, character, loyalty, or associates. He further stated that he would not hesitate to recommend the applicant for a position of trust.

CREDIT AND CRIMINAL

Mrs. ELOISE BRACKEN advised that she could locate no credit record for the applicant.

No arrest record could be located for the applicant at the Oberlin Police Department.

AT ELYRIA, OHIO

No record could be located for the applicant at the Lorain County Sheriff's Office which covers Oberlin.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROLAND D. FINK:

EMPLOYMENT

Miss GERTRUDE MC DONALD, Secretary to the Business Manager, Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, Ohio, advised that after searching through all the files at the university she found pay roll checks for E. E. NEWSOM in May and June 1922. No additional information furnished.

The records of the Akron Credit Bureau and the Summit County Sheriff's Office failed to disclose any information which could be identified with NEWSOM.

⁻ REFERRED UPÓN COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAU

FILE NO. 123-974

DATE WHEN MADE 3/28/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/21,22/51	LEO J. REUTHER, CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY	
		SPECIAL INQUIRY	
		MENT, Public Law (VOICE OF AMERIC	402, 80th Congres
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the Credit nat HUGH Nat. Vernon 1 ganist at W Lects again	E Bureau of Baltime WSOM, the applica Place, since 1947, Filliam Cook, Inc.	REG. RE REP'I. SY nore, Inc. reflect ant's brother, has is married to MA Nothing in the a, and he possesse	in a report resided in RJORIE NEWSOM, records of s a satisfactory
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BA 123-974

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The credit and criminal checks at Baltimore, Maryland were conducted by Special Employee JAMES R. COCHRAN.

Form No. 1 THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT OM FILE NO. 123-564 BUREAU REPORT MADE AT REPORT MADE BY PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/28/51 OMAHA, NEBRASKA 3/16,26/51 JOSEPH F. HUGHES BC. TITLE SPECIAL INQUIRY, STATE DEPART* EDWIN EARL NEWSON MENT, Public Law 402, 80th Congress (VOICE OF AMERICA) No birth record on file for applicant at Iowa Bureau SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: of Vital Statistics, Des Moines, Iowa, or at Clerk of Courts Office, Washington, Iowa. Bulet to Washington Field dated 3/14/51. REFERENCE: Investigation conducted by ETHERIDGE F. KENT at Washington, DETAILS: Iowa, and by SA JOSEPH F. HUGHES at Des Moines, Iowa. AGENCY ICC US' R. R. NOONAN, Clerk of Court at Washington, Iowa, advised REQ. REC'D3-C a search of his records fails to reflect the birth record REP'T FC. of applicant. ELDON SADDORIS, Iowa Bureau of Vital Statistics, Des Moines, Towa, advised there was no birth record on file for applicant. REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN REG. REC'D. 6 REP'T. FORW. 6 APPROVED AND FORWARDED: WRITE IN THESE SPACES · COPIES OF THIS REPORT MAR 30 198 Bureau Omaha.

September 28, 1955

Memorandum for Mr. Nichols.

relations counsel, since 1935. He was a member of the Board of Trustees, Village of Pelham Manor, 1945-47. Newsom was a pilot in the U.S. Navy Air Corps in World War I. He is a trustee of Oberlin College, Emma Willard School, American Heritage Foundation. Clubs: Union League (New York City); Pelham Country (board of governors, 1943-45), Men's (prestdent, 1938-39), Pelham Manor, New York; Blind Brook, (Portchester, New York). His home address is 45 Heywood Road, Pelham Manor 65, New York, and his offices are at 597 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York.

Bufiles reflect that during early 1951 Edwin Earl Newsom was the subject of a "Special Inquiry-State Department (Voice of America)" investigation. This investigation developed nothing of a derogatory nature, and Newsom was recommended by former employers, neighbors, and references as being of good character, loyalty and associates. (123-3983)

The only other references to Newsom in Bufiles pertain to his registration with the State Department as an agent of a foreign principal in his capacity as public relations counsel to Air Commodore George C. Pirie, Air Attache, British, Embassy, Washington, D. C., and the International Wool Publicity and Research Secretariat, Longon, England. Bufile indicates that Earl Newsom and Company b3 was listed as one of those whose Registration Statement was withdrawn b7E from the public files of the State Department on March 9, 1942.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.